


DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

The left side of the page features a large, semi-transparent graphic. At the top is the Seal of the State of Hawaii, which includes the text "STATE OF HAWAII" and "1959". Below the seal is a stylized map of the Hawaiian Islands. A thick, red, textured line, resembling a lei, winds through the map and the seal area.

From the mountains to the sea, Hawai‘i’s world-famous beauty comes from its natural resources, upon which our island economy depends. It is our privilege and challenge to protect and preserve the unique, rare and fragile natural resources of our islands. Many species of flora and fauna are not found anywhere else in the world.

To promote the safe and responsible use of Hawai‘i’s outstanding natural resources is the overall mission of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. DOCARE monitors and enforces Hawai‘i’s

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natural resources laws and the Hawai'i penal code. Its officers are broadly commissioned with full police powers to enforce rules and regulations covering aquatic resources, boating and ocean recreation, forestry and wildlife, natural area reserves, historic sites, state parks, land and water resource management, and conservation districts. DOCARE also partners with other law enforcement agencies, assists with search and rescue missions, and conducts community outreach and education through the assistance of volunteer DOCARE officers.

With 92 regular full time officers for the entire state, it is a tremendous challenge to protect 6 million acres of state land, including 2 million acres of conservation land and 750 miles of coastline, the largest tropical forest and 11th largest state forest in the country. Lack of adequate conservation enforcement staff leaves the laws designed to protect our resources open to numerous violations.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recognizing the vulnerability of our natural resources, and their importance to our state's future, Governor Cayetano demonstrated his commit-

ment to protect and sustain them through a new "Ocean State Initiative" by providing increased funding to expand the officer staff of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement to better enforce laws designed to protect the ocean. This has allowed DOCARE to expand and strengthen its monitoring and enforcement presence statewide.

Twenty-one new DOCARE officers were commissioned in October 1996 by Governor Cayetano, who also declared October 14-18, 1996 as Conservation and Resource Enforcement Week in Hawai'i. Eighteen of the new officers were former Marine Patrol Sheriffs who were transferred to DLNR by the 1996 Legislature. The remaining three were newly hired officers for the island of Kaua'i.

Sixteen new DOCARE officers were commissioned in April 1998. They were joined by 12 new volunteer officers, bringing DOCARE's full time officers to 92, and part-time volunteers to 47.

DOCARE also increased its presence at the Diamond Head State Monument to protect Hawai'i's most famous landmark from trailside vendors, and squatters. State rules were adopted in 1996 to regulate vending activities within Hawai'i's

state parks, such as Diamond Head. The rules protect freedom of expression by permitting individuals or organizations to hold assemblies, meetings or distribute or sell literature on state DLNR parks or beaches. However, the sale of merchandise is prohibited. New visitor signs in English and Japanese were installed in and around Diamond Head Crater to inform visitors that commercial activity is prohibited at the park, and that they are not obligated to buy any literature being offered at the park.

In January 1998, DOCARE officers acting on an anonymous tip caught two Honolulu fishermen in possession of chlorine, a highly poisonous chemical, along with a variety of reef fish. Nets, scuba equipment, various gear and the boat used in the offense were seized as a result of the investigation. About 100 pounds of menpachi, surgeonfish and other nearshore fish were caught, and other fish and marine life most likely died from the poison. The two cases were heard in Circuit Court. One individual was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and directed to complete 100 hours of community service. The second individual was sentenced to 150 hours of community service



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and fined \$750, with a year of probation and a suspended 30-day prison term. Equipment and the boat used were forfeited to the state, to be used by DOCARE.

The use of illegal gill nets continues to top the list of citations issued by DOCARE on O'ahu for fishing violations. This number is relatively high because fishermen are still using old nets, despite changes in the law in 1995 that raised the minimum mesh size allowed from 1-1/2 to 2 inches. In 1997, the minimum for gill nets went from 2 to 2-3/4 inches. The larger minimum mesh sizes were designed to prevent the taking of young, smaller fish, to allow species time to restore losses from fishing.

In the biennium, DOCARE and the Division of Aquatic Resources led the Department's efforts to retrieve abandoned nets from off-shore reefs and nearshore waters. Net cleanups on the windward and leeward coasts of O'ahu were also supported by community volunteers including fishermen, divers, students and the military.

The following are accomplishments for FYs 1996-1997 and 1997-1998, combined:

ENFORCEMENT

- Completed the transfer of the former Marine Patrol Program into DOCARE.
- Began training of all Marine Patrol officers in DLNR law enforcement.
- Began training of all DOCARE officers in small boat recreational regulations and U.S. Coast Guard safe boating requirements.
- Evaluated and repaired equipment transferred to DOCARE from the former Marine Patrol Program.
- Renewed joint patrol missions with the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Continued enforcement efforts on and around Kaho'olawe island.
- Cited three persons at Diamond Head State Monument for selling T-shirts and beverages, which is prohibited on state land including parks, some beaches, forest reserves and historic preserves. The individuals were found in violation of both State Parks rules and DLNR's First Amendment rules concerning commercial activities on state land.
- Completed annual recall training and re-certification for enforcement officers and the canine program.

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- Conducted marijuana reconnaissance and eradication missions statewide in conjunction with county police departments, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, National Guard and U.S. Army.
- Conducted routine enforcement activities statewide.
- Assisted with the development and passage of legislation (Chapter 183) to provide administrative penalties for forestry and wildlife violations.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Trained and certified 2,212 people through 79 Basic Hunter Education comprehensive 12-hour programs.
- A total of 7,239.5 hours of volunteer time was contributed by 72 volunteers, for an in-kind value of \$159,001.08. Average hours per volunteer in the fiscal year were 100.5.
- Volunteer bowhunter instructor and Hunter Education Program volunteer Alan Nakagawa of Waimea, Hawai'i was honored as Winchester Hunter Education

Volunteer Instructor of the Year for 1996. He was selected from among 55,000 volunteers in the U.S. and Canada.

- Hunting accidents involving firearms reported in 1997: 1 (non-fatal). In comparison, 2 (non-fatal) accidents were reported in FY 94-95.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Trained and certified 2,008 people in 81 hunter education basic certification courses completed statewide.
- Total of 8,048 hours of volunteer time, was contributed by 65 volunteers, for an in-kind value of \$171,218.09. Average number of volunteer hours per fiscal year was 123.8.
- Volunteer and Distinguished Master Instructor Henry Yamada was selected as Outdoor Empire Hunter Education Instructor of the month (June 1997). He was chosen from 55,000 volunteers whose names were submitted in the U.S. and Canada.
- Hunting accidents involving firearms reported in 1998: 1 (non-fatal). In comparison, there was 1 (non-fatal) hunting accident reported in FY 1995-96.

- Issued 29 advanced bowhunter certificates to individuals completing the training course.
- One Hunter Education advanced bowhunter course was completed.
- Sixteen children ages 10-13 completed a four-day Hawai'i Conservation and Wilderness Education summer camp, presented by DOCARE's Hunter Education Program, the Safari Club International – Hawai'i Chapter and the W.T. Yoshimoto Foundation.
- National Hunting and Fishing Day activities at the Koko Head Public Shooting Range were attended by 400 people.

